



Weiss - Livnat
International MA Program
in Holocaust Studies



The Art of Academic Writing: Writing a Thesis

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Course Overview:

This course teaches students how to design and execute an original research project in the field of Holocaust Studies. Our aim is practical—to guide students through the MA thesis-writing process, as well as conceptual—asking what makes a research project valuable, compelling, and original. The students are encouraged to apply these techniques to the topics they are interested in and use this course as a platform for improving their research and writing skills for the purpose of working on an MA thesis. The course combines group work and individual work with Dr. Lederman.

Course requirements:

Full attendance.

Weekly assignments: Students are required to find and read one article on their subject each week, to present its main arguments in class and to explain how it influences their thinking about their subject, research question, and the argument they try to develop.

Course assignment: The students will upload to Moodle and present in the last class of the course a brief thesis proposal according to the instructions given throughout the course and outlined below. Do use the examples of thesis proposals on Moodle to have a better sense of how it is to be done.

Grades: the course is a pass/fail course.

Instructions for a short thesis proposal (2-3 pages):

1. Introduction

Present the topic, the aim of the research, the specific research question you would like to explore, why it is interesting or important, and what your main argument is.

2. Literature review

Write a short literature review about your subject based on the five articles you read (or more if you read more) and explain how your research will add/improve/challenge the existing research.

3. Sources and methodology

Explain which primary sources you are going to use and what methodology you will employ in analyzing them.

4. Chapter outline

Explain what you are going to do in each chapter of your thesis.